

Minutes

of Executive Committee Open Meeting held 26 November 2003

at Boggart Hole Clough Visitor Centre, Charlestown Road, Manchester, M9 7DF.

1. **Present:** Stephen Holt (chair), Cllr Paul Murphy (deputy chair), Peter Milner (secretary pro tem), John Ashworth (Friends of Blackley Forest secretary), Ray Malone (Whitemoss Club for Young People chair), Jenny Hurst (and Tia), Mervyn Romain, Ann Williams (Manchester Leisure [ML] North Area Parks warden), David McCracken (ML North Area Parks manager), Tom Sabin (North City Arts [NCA] projects coordinator), Cllr Bill Risby, Bob Hill, PC Hussain, Ian Gillett (Neighbourhood Wardens Unit deputy manager), Mike Glendinning (Middleton and North Manchester Guardian journalist).
2. **Apologies:** David Wilson (treasurer pro tem), Sam McCormick.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting 27.8.03** (revised Minutes dated 26.11.03) agreed as true record.
4. **Unscheduled meeting 1.10.03** held at Visitor Centre. Present: Stephen, Paul, David W, Peter, Ann, David McC, Ian, Tom, Richard Grossick (NCA development officer).
 - 4.1 **Upcoming Guy Fawkes Night 2003** (see also item 5). Fireworks display relocated again, now to be held on meadow. Approx 10 security personnel. *Quicksilver* to be requested to supply less noisy fireworks in consideration of impact on wildlife. Event costs £8,000 from NCA, £2,000 from ML.
 - 4.2 **Annual Brass Music event** cost £6,000. Besides this event, call for smaller, monthly, live music events, including soloists, inviting local musicians: perhaps Arts Council or Community Chest funding.
 - 4.3 **Carol Service** at Visitor Centre. Decision to switch some ML resources from this event to Moston Lane Christmas Lights.
5. **Guy Fawkes Night 2003 and 2004** (see also item 4.1).
 - 5.1 Event held **5.11.03**, well attended. Complaints about rude clown: inappropriate for family entertainment.
 - 5.2 Traumatic effect of firework explosions on **wildlife** remains concern despite use of less noisy fireworks. Idea to relocate firework display to Broadhurst Fields rejected as it too contains wildlife. Seek guidance from RSPCA etc.
 - 5.3 Need traffic cones/**parking restrictions** on Charlestown Road. Publicity should encourage parking in Asda carpark and participation in procession starting from David Lewis Recreation Ground. Consider free buses to and from David Lewis.
 - 5.4 Perhaps use Commonwealth Games volunteers database to provide more **stewards** to accompany procession through Clough etc.
6. **ML Park Management.**
 - 6.1 Angel Hill **war memorial**: graffiti removed.
 - 6.2 Trinity District Residents' Association 8.11.03 planted tree in Clough dedicated to **Eric Foy**, 89 years living in district, recently hounded out by anti-social behaviour.

6.3 Future of **presently disused building** corner of Rochdale and Charlestown Roads, formerly barber shop etc. Ray requests time to write business plan: conversion into Irk Valley Eco Visitor Centre/Cafe, bringing together conservation groups (e.g. from Clough, Bailey's Wood, Blackley Forest), with Community Plant Nursery outside at back of building, etc. Divergent opinions re suitability of location, feasibility of reopening carpark and building's heritage value. Ray's request rejected in favour of demolition, 9 votes to 4. Paul proposes building *Environmental Centre* opposite side of carpark from present Visitor Centre.

7. Nature Conservation (see also items 4.1, 5.2, 6.3).

7.1 New Deal workers and Community Service Volunteers (Probation Service), directed by David W, began clearing undergrowth between main avenue and east side of Lake in preparation for possible felling (by ML) of **Manchester Poplars** on this site (in danger of collapse due to venturia populina disease).

7.2 Ancient Woodland regeneration. Nature Conservation Group volunteers (including Whitemoss Club for Young People members and staff) and C.S.Volunteers (Probation Service) working with Peter on Sundays continued creating wildlife habitat **pools and weir** to reduce flash flooding in clough below Fish Pond (an area cleared of invasive rhododendron).

8. Security issues: see items 4.1, 5.3, 5.4.

9. Charity registration. Website development should facilitate application process (see item 11).

10. Funding issues (see also items 4.2, 6.4).

10.1 Application by David W for *CAS:H* grant, for **tarmacking carpark adjacent to Boathouse**, refused by Manchester City Council/North Manchester Partnership in letter dated 21.10.03 on grounds that *CAS:H* grants programme too popular, number of bids exceeded money available.

10.2 Sam bid successfully for £2,430.12 from Voluntary Action Manchester's *Community Learning Chest* to equip BHCCAT secretary with **ICT equipment**, insurance, internet access and, if required, MANCAT computer training.

11. Manchester Community Information Network (MCIN) assisted Peter 17.11.03 to establish **Trust website** www.bhccat.org.uk with Php4hosting.com: £15.26 set-up fee, £3.53 monthly fee. Web page contributions welcome.

12. No treasurer's report: see item 2.

13. Future events.

13.1 **Weekly activities.** Tuesdays: Strollers' Group health walk. Saturdays: Junior Fishing Club lessons. Sundays: Angling Club match, Model Yachting Club races, Nature Conservation Group tasks.

13.2 **Forthcoming annual and one-off events.** Manchester District Cross Country League: Saturday 6 December 03. Carol Service: Wednesday 17 December 03. Special Needs Athletics Taster Day: Wednesday 28 January 04.

13.3 **Next Executive Committee Open Meeting:** Wednesday 25 February 04, 6.30 p.m., Visitor Centre. Members of the local community and any other interested people are welcome to attend BHCCAT meetings on the understanding that only paid-up members of the Trust have a right to vote at the AGM in election of trustees, and during the year only trustees and representatives from affiliated member organizations and co-opted appointees have a right to vote at executive committee meetings.